

Winchester Parks and Recreation Board
Monday, April 25, 2011 @ 6:30pm
Lord Fairfax Room, Active Living Center

Members Present: Tim Grove, Brian Wigley, Krista Farris, Kyle Homan, Matt Mintschenko, Susan Roberts and Jules Bacha

Members Absent: John Elliott and Catherine Mattens

Staff Present: Brad Veach, Lisa Hamaker and Jennifer Stotler

City Council: Milt McInturff

City Manager: Jim O'Connor

Media Present: Vic Bradshaw

Guests: David Powers, Richard Pifer, Ronald Routhier

The meeting was called to order by Tim Grove at 6:30pm.

Public Comments:

Jubal Early Property presented by Mr. Pifer and Mr. Powers:

The Powers family farm known as Willow Lawn dated historically with a 1730 Quaker Home on the property. The Powers family would like to donate a piece of property to the City. The property is adjacent to the Green Circle and Abrams Creek. The donation of land would provide green space for passive recreation and historical interpretation. The land will stretch about two-thirds of the way to Valley Avenue. If the land is given as a charitable donation, the land could be potentially used as a match for a grant for the construction of a bridge to cross Abrams Creek. The property would enhance the area of the Green Circle and provide a nice place for citizens to enjoy.

A suggestion was made for the Board to meet on site at the spur of the Green Circle next month to view the property. There is a question as to whether part of the property (2.48 acres) belongs to someone else.

Approval of the March Minutes:

A motion to approved the March minutes was made by Matt Mintschenko; seconded by Kyle Homan, motion carried.

Event Review: Brad Veach

NBL Northeast Challenge Series: The NBL Northeast Challenge Series was a joint effort between Winchester Parks and Recreation and the local BMX Association. The first time event was very successful with approximately 450 pre-registered participants. NBL officials feel Winchester is ready to host a national event that could potentially land 2000 riders which in turn could bring 6000 people to Winchester for the event.

Pancake Day: The Kiwanis Club brought their semi-annual fundraiser "Pancake Day" back to the Park this year. The event was very successful serving over 5800 people. The Kiwanis also had approximately 685 volunteer hours helping with the event.

Doo Dah Day: Due to inclement weather the event had to be moved from Saturday, April 16 to Sunday, April 17. The event was a success.

Apple Blossom “Weekend in the Park”: The event will be held the weekend of April 30 and May 1. Everything seems to be coming together and well organized.

Attendance Report: The Park Board member’s attendance will be tracked at each monthly meeting. City Code mandates how many board meetings can be missed in one year.

Preston Field Project Update: The Commissioner of Blue Ridge Soccer Association (BRYSA), Ronald Routhier attended the meeting in support for the conversion of Preston Field in Jim Barnett Park from a softball field to a rectangular playing fields allowing multiple sports usage. BRYSA met last month to talk about seeing the project through and their board expressed an interest to contribute \$93,000.00 toward the project. BRYSA’s concern would be to ensure they have adequate playing time allowed to them on the field. Handley High School was approached about the playing field and the conversion of the field from dirt to Bermuda grass and it seems there is no Virginia high school regulation that mandates a softball team to play on a dirt field. The Football Association has not weighed in and the department is still waiting to hear from them. The Park Board is committed to push forward with the conversion of the field and provide guidance with a proper field material.

Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve Signage: Five new interpretive signs meeting ADA requirements have been installed. Several organizations raised the funds for the low maintenance signs and park staff installed them.

Skate Park Committee: Brad Veach reporting; The committee is still looking for support and seeking pricing.

Park Utilization Plan Committee: Krista Farris, committee chair, reported they are pursuing a pamphlet with a gift catalog to target simple items used in all parks. A draft will be put together. The second phase will be a more comprehensive web document. The next committee meeting will pair up board members to approach citizens for their input on what they would like to see in the parks such as amenities, etc.

Outgoing Chair Comments: Tim Grove spoke to the board and park staff that he has experienced 35+ years of using the park system and 7 years serving in some capacity on the board. He has seen lots of expansion and challenges. In the future, he hopes that the park will develop a skatepark, keep the foundation growing, protect park land, ensuring volunteer work and he encouraged the Board to review all funds carefully.

May Park Board Meeting Dates & Times:

Park Utilization Committee- TBD

Monthly Meeting- Monday, May 23, 2011 @6:30PM Daily Grind Conference Room

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kyle Homan; seconded by Matt Mintschenko motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Stotler, Park Administration Coordinator on May 18, 2011